



JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 22, 2019

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 100% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 1085 "An Act Concerning The Legalization Of The Retail Sale And Possession Of Cannabis And Concerning Erasure Of Criminal Records In The Case Of Convictions Based On The Possession Of A Small Amount Of Cannabis"

SB 1085 would set the framework to regulate the retail sale of cannabis.

Just like the legislature, CCM's membership has varied opinions on the legalization of the retail sale of marijuana. Our members are united in that any proposal that would legalize marijuana should be based on science and we urge the committee to seriously examine the health effects and public safety concerns before passing any legislation. If the legislature does move forward with the regulation of the retail sale of marijuana, we ask the committee to take into consideration the following:

- CCM supports the ability for a municipality to prohibit or restrict in any manner the operation of a cannabis establishment. Towns must be able to have local control over where cannabis can and cannot be sold.
- Any proposal should take into consideration the public safety concerns of legalizing the recreational use of cannabis, including strong and effective safeguards to keep it out of the hands of underage individuals and off school grounds.

Towns that opt to have cannabis in their communities will have to enforce new regulations and ensure public safety; thus, we ask that the legislature to consider an option for municipalities to recoup the costs associated with enforcement.

CCM is willing to engage in dialogue over these concerns as different proposals move through the legislative process.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Advocacy Manager of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.